



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

30 JULY 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Clemente – 19 Arrested After Small Boat Lands at California Beach

(U) US federal agents arrested 19 people, all Mexican citizens after a panga boat landed at a Southern California beach, federal authorities said. Once reaching land, the group made their way to a sedan that was waiting nearby, driven by a Guatemalan citizen, according to US Customs and Border Protection. The boat passengers and the sedan driver were arrested. A few hours later, a Salvadorian citizen was also arrested in connection with the smuggling event.

SOURCE: 29 Jul 2020, [KUSI News](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Mexico – Border City Murders Top 1,000 as Violence Continues Despite COVID-19 Pandemic

(U) Juárez – There have been 1,024 homicides in Ciudad Juárez so far in 2020, including 140 killings in July. Juárez had nearly 1,500 homicides in all of 2019, according to police and a public safety civic organization. The violence is related to continuous fighting among drug-dealing groups and gangs over local drug markets, particularly methamphetamine, law enforcement officials have said. Crime organizations have fractured and shifted alliances as new groups have emerged in recent years.

SOURCE: 30 July 2020, [El Paso Times](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Russian Intelligence Agencies Push Disinformation on COVID-19 Pandemic

(U) Washington – Russian intelligence services have been spreading disinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic, according to newly declassified intelligence, material that demonstrates how Moscow is continuing to try to influence Americans as the election draws closer. Russian military intelligence, known as the GRU, has used its ties with a Russian government information center, InfoRos, and other websites to push out English-language disinformation and propaganda about the COVID-19 pandemic, such as amplifying false Chinese arguments that the virus was created by the US military and articles that said Russia's medical assistance could bring new cooperation with Washington.

SOURCE: 28 July 2020, [The New York Times](#)

(U) District of Columbia – FBI Director Wray Warns of China Election Interference

(U) Washington – FBI Director Christopher Wray and other intelligence community officials warned about China's increased capability to interfere in US elections in separate classified hearings with the Senate Intelligence Committee this week. Director Wray and other officials cited concerns that China is developing the ability to interfere with local election systems and target members of Congress to influence China policy, the sources said.

SOURCE: 30 July 2020, [Axios](#)

(U) Illinois – Chicago Black Disciples Gang Leader Among 23 Charged in Federal Investigation

(U) Chicago – An alleged Chicago gang leader is among 23 individuals facing criminal charges as part of a federal investigation into drug and gun trafficking on the city's South Side. The defendants were arrested

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28 July after a multi-year investigation, according to the Northern District of Illinois US Attorney's Office. Among those arrested is Darnell McMiller, 34, of Chicago, also known as "Murder." McMiller is described in the indictment as the current leader of the Black Disciples street gang in Chicago. Several other alleged high-ranking members of the Black Disciples were also charged and arrested.

SOURCE: 29 July 2020, [ABC 7 Chicago](#)

(U) Nevada – Man Recently Charged in Terror Plots Now Charged with Child Exploitation

(U) Las Vegas – A Las Vegas man who was recently charged in terror plots is now also charged with child sexual exploitation. The most recent criminal complaint filed against 35-year-old Stephen Parshall is separate from the terrorism charges. Parshall is also alleged to be a member of the “Boogaloo Movement.” The group is suspected of trying to destabilize the US government through acts of violence.

SOURCE: 29 July 2020, [8 News Now](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Italy – Vatican Infiltrated by Chinese Hackers Ahead of Meetings

(U) Vatican City – The Vatican’s computer networks have allegedly been infiltrated by Chinese hackers in the run-up to sensitive talks between the Catholic Church and Beijing focusing on the religion’s status in China, according to cybersecurity firm Recorded Future, which detected a series of incursions into the Vatican and the Holy See’s Study Mission to China’s systems from the beginning of May. It is a suspected case of cyber-espionage, with the Chinese state frequently accused of targeting religious groups, such as Buddhist Tibetans and Muslim Uighurs, through cyber-attacks in recent years.

SOURCE: 30 July 2020, [Infosecurity Group](#)

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